

APRIL 2026

RED NOTICE

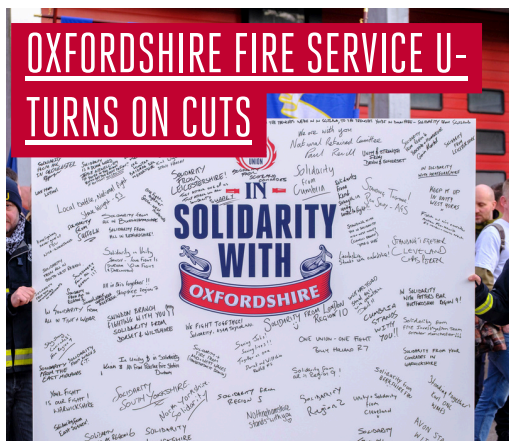


General secretary's comment

This month proves what we can achieve when we stand united. Thanks to campaigning by Oxfordshire firefighters and solidarity from members everywhere, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has been forced into a u-turn on cuts.

That's a powerful message: when we say enough is enough, we mean it. We should be proud – but the momentum must continue.

Dorset and Wiltshire and Scotland face brutal frontline cuts, and fire services across the country are looking to trim spending. Stay organised, and keep fighting for our service.



Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has abandoned plans to close three fire stations, remove six fire engines, and cut 42 firefighter posts, following determined campaigning by FBU members.

The u-turn was confirmed after firefighters voted overwhelmingly for strike action, with 94% in favour on a 71% turnout.

Councillors will now consider revised proposals on 21 April, which will focus on boosting on-call firefighter numbers and improving fire-engine availability across the county.

Government backs firefighter health screening at landmark FBU Summit

Health Minister Wes Streeting announced the government's commitment to health screening for firefighters at the first-ever FBU Health and Safety Summit. Health and safety reps gathered in Birmingham to hear from experts on cancer, PFAS, lithium-ion batteries and mental health.

FBU condemns Reform Housing Chief's offensive Grenfell comments

The FBU condemned "disgusting" and "shocking" remarks from Reform UK housing spokesperson Simon Dudley on Grenfell, after he attacked post-fire safety regulations and said the deadly blaze was a "tragedy" but "everyone dies in the end". Dudley has since been sacked.

BUILD YOUR UNION

Cuts Kill: Ask your MP to sign the EDM

Write to your MP and tell them to back the Early Day Motion to stop the cuts – use the online tool here: <https://fbu.write.mp/campaigns/cuts-kill-edm>

Honour fallen firefighters

Join the minute's silence on 4 May to mark Firefighters Memorial Day. <https://www.fbu.org.uk/campaigns/remember-our-fallen-heroes>

Support campaigns against local cuts

Support firefighters facing cuts by getting involved in campaigning actions - <https://www.fbu.org.uk/local-campaigns>

PUBLIC SUPPORT SWELLS FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUTS IN DORSET AND WILTSHIRE

Public backing is building for the FBU campaign against severe fire service cuts in Dorset and Wiltshire. After community meetings, station advice desks and online action, nearly 16,000 residents have signed up to oppose the cuts.

The FBU warns the plans to close eight on-call fire stations, cut 96 firefighter jobs and lose fire engines and specialist appliances would seriously threaten public safety.

FBU stands in solidarity with New Zealand firefighters' battle for working equipment

FBU General Secretary Steve Wright has written to Wattie Watson, national secretary of the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union, to send solidarity to firefighters in New Zealand taking strike action over critical shortages of staff and equipment. Crews are using ageing appliances that fail on emergency calls, leaving firefighters at risk.



Firefighters join march for unity in London

The FBU joined the Together Alliance demonstration calling for unity against the rise of the extreme right. Firefighters marched behind an FBU banner at the event in central London, which was backed by hundreds of groups including trade unions, environmentalists, musicians, faith leaders, entertainers, MPs, councillors and community activists.



Key dates for your diary

- **28 April**
Workers Memorial Day
- **4 May**
Firefighters Memorial Day
- **13-15 May**
FBU Conference



Education events

- **29 April-1 May**
Introductory Branch Officials (Exeter)
- **1-3 May**
Women's School

